



JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 1, 2002

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Directors, Public and Private Agency Directors, and Michigan Education Associations

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.

RE: Public Comment Opportunities on Proposed *Model Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs in Michigan*

Public attention is increasingly focused on the many hours that school-age children spend outside the classroom. Children learn during all the hours they are awake, but spend only about 20 percent of those hours in school. In addition, parents of most school-age children work and are unavailable some of the time when children are not in school.

Enrichment activities and academic support as well as youth development activities, before and after school, on weekends and during school recess periods, including summer, have become important to children's lives and an extension of their learning. It is critical that the experiences in which students participate during their out-of-school time be of the quality that will promote their academic and social development, as well as keep them safe and healthy with appropriate supervision.

At its meeting on September 12, 2002, the State Board of Education discussed a document proposed by a committee of practitioners and staff for *Model Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs in Michigan*, and accepted a plan for public comment on the Model Standards.

These sessions will be held in conjunction with meetings of the following associations during the month of October. All meetings will be open to the public.

- Michigan Child Care Task Force, State Library and Historical Center, Lansing, October 9, 2002, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Michigan 21st Century Community Learning Centers Advisory Committee, John A. Hannah Building, Lansing, October 10, 2002, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Michigan School-Age Care Alliance Annual Conference, Holiday Inn South, Lansing, October 21, 2002, 4:15 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Michigan Association for Community and Adult Education, Boyne Mountain, October 23, 2002, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Holiday Inn Southfield, October 7, 2002, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The document can be accessed on the Michigan Department of Education website at www.michigan.gov/mde; click on "keywords" and then on "Model Standards for OST Programs." Comment on the document will be accepted until December 2, 2002 through a dedicated e-mail address, MDE-OSTS@michigan.gov, or by mail to: Lindy Buch, Ph.D., Supervisor, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs, Michigan Department of Education, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909.

We look forward to wide-ranging comment on these proposed standards. Please take advantage of one or more of the opportunities for comment.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov • (517) 373-3324